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Viewing cable 07BUENOSAIRES1723, ARGENTINE TIP LEGISLATION STALLED IN CONGRESS

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Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g.

#07BUENOSAIRES1723.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
07BUENOSAIRES1723	2007-08-30 17:08	2011-08-30 01:44	CONFIDENTIAL//NOFORN	Embassy Buenos Aires

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.lanacion.com.ar/1362538-puntos-ciegos-en-el-territorio-argentino>

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RR RUEHWEB

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 001723

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G FOR U/S DOBRIANSKY
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WHA FOR PDAS CHARLES SHAPIRO
WHA/PPC FOR MIKE PUCETTI

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/28/2017

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SUBJECT: ARGENTINE TIP LEGISLATION STALLED IN CONGRESS
UNTIL AFTER OCTOBER ELECTIONS

REF: BUENOS AIRES 1685

Classified By: AMBASSADOR EARL ANTHONY WAYNE,
FOR REASONS 1.4 (B) AND (D)

11. (SBU) On August 27, Ambassador asked Argentine Minister of the Interior (MOI) Anibal Fernandez about the prospects for enacting comprehensive federal Trafficking in Persons (TIP) legislation in Argentina. Fernandez stated that it is ""very difficult"" to make progress in the Argentine Congress on this legislation at this time, and that he personally beleives this is ""a pity."" When the Ambassador asked if he could help move things ahead, Fernandez replied that for now the situation is frozen, but after the October 28 elections things could move again.

12. (C) Fernandez said that the provincial authorities are resisiting making federal offenses out of matters that are now handled at the local level. This is particularly true of the provinces in northeast Argentina, where trafficking is particularly widespread. He candidly acknowledged that resistance in the northeast is in part because local judges and politicians there are more likely to be corrupt - and sometimes even connected to trafficking rings themselves - and have a vested interest in keeping federal authorities off their turf.

13. (SBU) Fernandez believes the meetings between Argentine and U.S. officials in Washington earlier this year on TIP worked against the passage of federal legislation in

Argentina. Prior to the Washington meetings, Fernandez was optimistic that the the various interested factions in Argentina had reached a tentative agreement on new legislation. Criticism of Argentina's TIP situation by one USG official during and after a Washington meeting on the issue, he claimed, contributed to the agreement unraveling.

14. (SBU) The Ambassador also raised the situation of Argentine anti-TIP activist Susana Trimarco, who has recently faced threats and harassment from traffickers. Fernandez replied that he was aware of the situation, and assured the Ambassador that he was taking steps to ensure the safety of Trimarco and her colleagues. Fernandez said that he has known Ms. Trimarco for many years and he remains in close contact with her. He observed that she was "one tough lady" who would not be easily intimidated.

15. (SBU) The Ambassador referred to past discussions concerning the creation of a Trafficking Prevention and Assistance program in Argentina. Ambassador noted that he was pleased to see the creation of the program announced in the July 27 "Official Bulletin," but was surprised to see the jurisdiction of the program fell under the Ministry of Justice. All past discussions concerning the program had placed jurisdiction for the program under the MOI. Fernandez said he could understand why the Ambassador was confused. He explained that placement of the program under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Justice was a part of the compromise agreement that had been reached earlier in the year and fundamentally reflected the fact that people in Congress did not fully understand the law. He concluded, "What are you going to do?" evidencing clear frustration with the legislative process on this subject.

WAYNE

=====CABLE ENDS=====